

App. No. 10/594,609  
Office Action Dated August 26, 2009

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (currently amended) A method for improving eliciting the nitrogen absorption and protein synthesis [[of]] in plants, wherein it comprises comprising: administering the application, to said plants or soils in which said plants are located, [[of]] an effective amount of (1) ulvans, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, or (2) of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides a reaction product obtained from the treatment of said ulvans by chemical hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the administering is carried out the application to the plants is carried out via the leaves or via the roots.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the abovementioned ulvans or ulvan-derived oligosaccharides are used in an amount of: effective amount administered to the plants is from 0.1g to 100g per liter, and preferably of the order of 1g per liter, when applied in liquid form via the leaves or in nutritive solution[[s]] for the roots, from 10 to 1000g, and preferably of the order of 200g per hectare, when applied in solid form, for example, in pulverulent or granulated fertilizers.

9. (currently amended) A fertilizing product for eliciting nitrogen absorption and protein synthesis in plants, wherein it comprises comprising: an effective amount of at least one of ulvans, in particular extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*, [[or]] and a reaction product obtained from the treatment of said ulvan by chemical hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis an ulvan-derived oligosaccharide, optionally in combination with one or more fertilizing substances.

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enzymatic hydrolysis ~~an ulvan-derived oligosaccharide, optionally in combination with one or more fertilizing substances.~~

10. (currently amended) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~[[it]] the fertilizer product is[:]] either in the form of a liquid and in that it contains an the effective amount of the at least one of ulvans [[or]] and of ulvan-derived oligosaccharides a reaction product obtained from the treatment of said ulvans by hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis is between of from 0.1g [[to]] and 100g per liter[:]]~~

~~or in the form of a solid, in particular in the form of a powder or granules and in that it contains an amount of ulvans or ulvan-derived oligosaccharides which makes it possible to apply from 10 to 1000g, and preferably of the order of 200g per hectare.~~

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is from 10 to 1000 g per hectare when applied in solid form, the solid form being pulverulent or granulated fertilizers.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is about 200 g per hectare.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ulvans are extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ulvans are extracted from at least one selected from the group consisting of the following species of *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*: *Ulva armoricana*, *Ulva rigida*, *Ulva rotundata*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ulvans extracted from algae are obtained by a method including the steps of washing, milling and extracting, wherein extracting involves a solid-liquid separation.

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16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the method of obtaining the ulvans extracted from algae further comprises the steps of fractioning, concentrating and dehydrating.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is 1 g per liter.

18. (New) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fertilizer product is in the form of a solid, and the effective amount of the at least one of ulvans and a reaction product obtained from the treatment of the ulvans by hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis is between 10 and 1000 g per hectare of treated soil.

19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the effective amount given to the plants or soils is 200 g per hectare.

20. (New) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the solid is powder or granules.

21. (New) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ulvans are extracted from green algae of the genus *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*.

22. (New) The fertilizing product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ulvans are extracted from at least one selected from the group consisting of the following species of *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha*: *Ulva armoricana*, *Ulva rigida*, *Ulva rotundata*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Enteromorpha compressa*.